



September 6, 2018

Commissioner Brendan Carr
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: WT Docket No. 17-79 – Accelerating Wireless Broadband Deployment by Removing Barriers to Infrastructure Investment

Dear Commissioner Carr:

Women Impacting Public Policy (WIPP), a national, nonpartisan organization advocating on behalf of women entrepreneurs, writes to thank the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) for doing its part to push forward with policies that make it easier to deploy the next generation of mobile networks by streamlining regulatory and policy frameworks that could inhibit the buildout of 5G.

Women-owned businesses are critical to the nation's job creation and economic growth. Today there are more than 10 million women business owners, making up more than a third of all U.S. businesses, who generate more than \$1.6 trillion in revenues and employ 8.4 million people.¹ Over 36% of businesses are women-owned – a segment growing at four times the rate of men-owned businesses.² Of these women-owned businesses, 90% are small businesses.³ In order for these essential job creators to remain competitive, the future of next-generation technologies is critical for a successful and thriving economy. Businesses and communities across America will realize the benefits of enhanced technology infrastructure with the right policies that invite real investment in network infrastructure.

Bank of America's survey, "2018 Bank of America Women Business Owner Spotlight," found that women businesses are leading the digital transformation. Thirty-three percent of women entrepreneurs use a mobile device to process digital financial transactions, compared to 26% of men. Of those conducting business transactions on mobile devices, women business owners lead men on specific-use cases as well: accepting mobile payments from customers (71% of women versus 65% of men); issuing refunds to

¹ 10 Million Strong: The Tipping point for Women Entrepreneurs. National Women's Business Council (2016).

² *Id.*

³ Women-Owned Businesses: Carving A New American Business Landscape, U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation Center for Women in Business at 6 (2014).

customers (29% of women versus 19% of men); paying employees (19% of women versus 14% of men). Beyond digital payments, women entrepreneurs are also ahead of the curve in managing other aspects of their business on their mobile devices, including social media updates (44% of women versus 33% of men) and hiring (12% of women versus 8% of men).

WIPP's annual survey supports these findings. Ninety-two percent of members report they try to stay abreast of innovations that could be incorporated into their companies. By modernizing and streamlining infrastructure rules, as well as working with the private sector, leaders at all levels of government can help speed up the deployment of technological innovation across the country. Thank you for your work to promote common-sense policies that will grow investment, improve technology infrastructure and improve the economy, thus helping women entrepreneurs continue to succeed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Candace Waterman".

Candace Waterman
President and CEO
Women Impacting Public Policy